

An Essay
on the
Pathology and Treatment of
Croup,

Respectfully submitted to the Faculty
of the

The Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania,

January 25th A.D. 1850.

For the Doctorate in Medicine;

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Croup is an affection peculiar to the period of childhood, seldom attacking those of more than 12 years of age. It is an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the trachea, often accompanied with the production of false membranes. The trachea is considered by most pathologists to be the genuine seat of Croup, but the inflammation often extends into the larynx and from thence into the bronchia and their ramifications.

The mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea, particularly the latter, is found to exhibit, on post mortem examination the ordinary signs of inflammation. The most striking phenomenon in this disease is that the

trachea, especially below the inferior ligaments of the Larynx, is lined by a pseudo membranous exudation, of a light greyish color, and which is composed of albumen and fibers. The thickness of this membrane varies according to the severity of the inflammation. It seldom exceeds the fourth of a line, though in some instances it is the eighth or tenth of an inch.

Like inflammation, the pseudo membranous exudation may, and generally does, in severe cases of Croup extend ~~into~~ the larynx, and from thence into the bronchia, becoming gradually softer and more delicate, until finally it appears in the binary and ternary tubes, like a mucous film. Generally, however, this membranous formation does not exist in the Larynx for any great length of time, owing to the facility with which it can be expectorated; whilst the narrowness formed by the inferior ligaments,

Prevents the ready escape of that which is thrown out in the trachea and bronchia. The false membrane may either form a continuous lamella throughout the course of the air passage, or be in detached portions, blended with mucus, or floeculi of albuminous substance. It is often detached from the mucous membrane by the secretion of a purulent or mucopurulent substance; at other times it adheres to the mucous membrane with considerable pertinacity. The false membrane is generally confined to the trachea in those cases that have been severe and rapid in their course. The under surface of the epiglottis not infrequently partakes of this morbid formation and the rima glottidis is often obstructed by it. Death is said to have taken place when the mucous membrane was covered merely by a secretion of pus, and with the same phenomena as mark the progress of

the disease when the false membrane is found to exist.

The impediment to the respiration in croup, may be imputed in a great measure to the existence of this plastic production, together with the transfection of the living Membrane of the trachea and bronchia. Not unfrequently portions of it, are detached and by remaining in the air passages, cause suffocation. In some instances it is coughed up, either in small pieces or in the form of a dense inspissated tube. When this takes place, the patient generally recovers. This membranous formation is considered by most pathologists to be inorganic; but like other plastic productions it is capable of becoming organized.

Having in a desultory manner given the pathological character of croup, the next thing in order is to point out the remedies,

which may be found serviceable in the treatment
of this affection.

There is no disease with which children
has to contend, so formidable in its character, and
none which in its progress may require more
of the vital energies of the System to withstand.
But notwithstanding its severity we find
it yields, far more readily, to the action of
infinitesimal doses of medicine, provided they
be administered strictly in accordance with the
Homœopathic law of cure, - than when the
ordinary method of bloodletting and emetics
resorted to. This method of reducing the little
suffer to the very portals of death, by the abstraction
of blood the application of blisters, and the administra-
tion of large doses of Tartar emetic and Calomel,
renders the disease more formidable to treat,
when the Homœopathic physician is afterwards
called in.

Aconite Cough.

This remedy when administered in accordance with the Homoeopathic law of cure occupies nearly the same position with treatment of disease that the different forms of bloodletting are intended to do in the old practice, and rarely if ever fails to exert a happy influence over the general character of the disease, although it is not sufficient of itself to cure.

Aconite is particularly applicable in the inflammatory stage, especially as long as the nervous and vascular systems, are very much excited with burning heat, thirst, short and quick cough, accelerated breathing. Spasmodic, rough, crowing cough; also when accompanied with danger of suffocation and constriction of the throat. Anxious laboured sighing hurried and superficial breathing. Sort of Miller's asthma with violent night cough characterized by a

horse croaking sound; danger of suffocation and constriction of the trachea; Pain and soreness in the larynx.

Ammonium Causticum Group.

Increased secretion of mucus in the bronchia. Voice deep and weak; interrupted speech; Copious expectoration of mucus, especially after drinking, with violent cough; Difficult, rattling, laboured breathing; Stertorous breathing; Suffocating fits; Spasms of the chest.

Arsenicum Group

Cough occasioned by a constrictive sensa-
tion in the upper part of the trachea, similar ^{to that which}
is caused by the vapor of Sulphur. Cough which
is frequently quite dry, and short occasioned
by a suffocative sensation in the larynx, similar
^{b. that which}
to ^{a.} is caused by the vapor of Sulphur. Cough
especially after drinking. A cough which awakes
the patient up at night; violent fits of coughing

almost causing suffocation, and bringing on swelling
of the neck. Catarrh which causes sudden
threatening suffocation.

Belladonna Group.

There is great soreness of the larynx with
danger of suffocation, when feeling the gutter
as well as when coughing. Speaking or breathing.
Attack of spasmodic constriction of the larynx.
Dry short cough, chiefly at night, or in the after-
noon or evening, or hollow and barking. Catarrh
with cough, Coryza, hoarseness and tenacious
mucus in the chest. Cough with expectora-
tion of puslike mucus.

Bryonia Group.

Hoarseness accompanied with indura-
tion to perspire; Hoarse and rough voice;
Dry cough excited by a tickling in the throat, or
as if caused by smoke in the larynx. Cramp-
like suffocating cough, particularly towards

Morning, or after taking food, and often with vomiting of ingesta; Cough with expectoration of yellowish matter.

Bromine Croup.

Formation of false Membrane with larynx and trachea. Spasms in the larynx occasioning suffocation; Hoarse weezing cough not permitting the patient to utter a word; accompanied with sneezing; with violent fits of suffocation. Respiration characterized by mucus rattling; weezing; alternately slow and suffocating, and hurried and superficial; laboured; painful; oppressed; gasping for air. Heat in the face.

Carbo Animalis Croup.

Hoarseness early in the morning after rising; Hoarseness worse at night; Dry cough at night; Suffocating cough particularly in the evening after having slept.

Clausticum Croup.

Rough hoarseness, morning and evening; Cough with short breath, and difficulty of respiration; Nocturnal cough; Dry hollow and shaking cough;

Chamomilla Croup.

Catarrh, and hoarseness, with accumulation of mucus in the throat. Catarrhal hoarseness; Dry cough, produced by a constant titillation in the larynx, particularly at night, and sometimes attended with suffocation; Expectoration of mucus of a bitter or putrid taste.

Cuprum Croup.

Continual, hoarseness not permitting the patient to utter a word; Cough which arrests the breathing; Cough with interrupted, almost suppressed respiration. Dry cough with fits of suffocation like hooping cough.

Sulphate of Copper in large doses has

been administered in the last stage of Croup for the purpose of inducing expulsion of the false Membrane, and preventing suffocation; this has frequently succeeded.

Grossa Croup.

Hoarseness, and very low voice.
Cough and hoarseness; Cough at night and in the evening immediately after lying down.
dry spasmodic cough with inclination to vomit;
Cough with vomiting of nigesta; Cough with expectoration of purulent matter and pain in the lower part of the chest.

Hepar Sulphuris Croup.

Pain and great sensibility of the Larynx with hoarseness; Suffocating Cough with inclination to vomit. Deep and dull cough, excited by difficulty of respiration; Cough induced by drinking; dry cough particularly in the evening; dry, rough, and hollow cough, with anguish

and suffocation, often causing the patient to weep; Barking cough; Cough with expectoration of mucus.

Iodine Cough.

Inflammation of the larynx and trachea with contractive, sore pain. Hoarseness particularly in the morning. Copious secretion of mucus in the trachea. Pain in the larynx. Aching and pricking pain in the larynx and sublingual glands; Cough particularly in the morning; Cough with expectoration of mucus. Dry cough. Roughness of the trachea which lasts for one day.

Specacuanha. Coughs.

Cough especially at night. Dry cough, excited by a contractive tickling in the larynx extending to the extremity of the bronchia. Dry shaking and spasmodic Cough with fits of suffocation, stiffness of the body, and bluish face.

Sodium Muriaticum Croup

Rough voice with a scraping sensation in the larynx. Hoarseness early in the morning. Rough, hoarse, short, and hacking cough. Suffocating cough, day and night. Soreness in the larynx and trachea when coughing.

Nitric Acid Croup

Stinging pain with larynx with hoarseness and cough. Sharp scraping sensation in the trachea. Roughness of the larynx and trachea when taking in inspiration. Hoarseness preventing speech. Cough with titillation and soreness in the throat. Cough especially at night when sleeping. Rough dry cough before midnight. Cough only in the day. Barking cough particularly in the evening.

Opium Croup

Hoarseness as if caused by an accumulation of mucus in the trachea with great dryness

of the mouth. Dry hollow cough aggravated by repose. Cough with suspended respiration and blue color of the face.

~~Pungens~~ Phosphorus Cough.

Harseness and scraping in the throat which lasts for several days. Pain in the larynx. Expectoration of mucus from the larynx. Cough especially violent when taking either cold or warm drink. Cough with stinging pain in the larynx.

~~Pyrrhorrhœa~~ Spongia Cough.

Harseness accompanied with cough and coryza. Pain with larynx on touching it, or turning the head. Sensation of obstruction in the larynx, with impeded respiration. Soreness in the throat. Burning pain in the larynx and trachea. Cough with yellowish expectoration, and harsness. Hollow, dry, barking cough, day and night, increased towards evening; and soreness with

pain in the Larynx. Dry Cough accompanied with burning
in the Larynx;

Sulphur Group

Roughness and scraping in the Throat accompa-
nied with hoarseness. Voice hoarse and
low or entirely extinct. Irritation as if the Larynx
were swollen or as if there were a foreign body in
it. Dry Cough particularly in the evening with
Vomiting. Cough with expectoration of mucus
of a yellowish color. Cough with rattling in the
Trachea.

Plaster-smutis Group.

The larynx is painful to the touch; Hoarseness;
Paroxysms of coughing with suffocating obstruction
of respiration; Cough with vomiting of ingesta; Hollow
cough, with rattling of mucus in the chest; Cough, with
expectoration of mucus, sometimes at night only.
Principally after midnight.